

TROPICAL DEPRESSION 23W

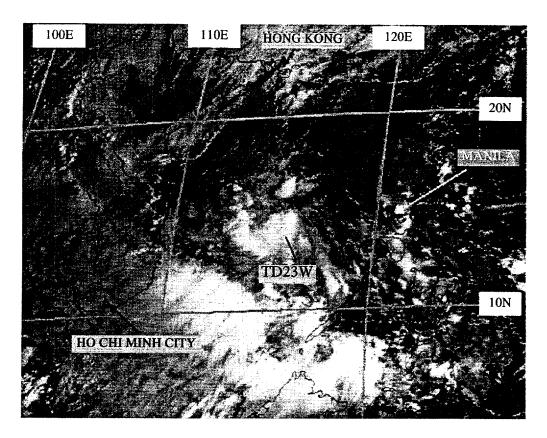


Figure 3-23-1 The tropical disturbance that became Tropical Depression 23W begins to consolidate its deep convection around its low-level circulation center (042331Z October visible GMS imagery).

While Tropical Storm Sibyl (20W) was making landfall in southern China, another tropical disturbance was crossing the central Philippines. Expecting that the environment would become more favorable for development of the tropical disturbance over the Philippines once Sibyl weakened over China (the outflow from Sibyl appeared to be creating northerly shear on this disturbance), the JTWC added it to the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory at 030600Z October. When this disturbance moved into the South China Sea, deep convection increased in areal coverage and organization, prompting the JTWC to issue a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) at 040800Z. Moving westward in the South China Sea, the disturbance failed to intensify. An exposed low-level circulation center was revealed by visible satellite imagery during the daylight hours of 05 October (Figure 3-23-1). Although the maximum winds in the system were estimated to be only 15 to 20 kt (8 to 10 m/sec), the environment was considered favorable for development, so a second TCFA was issued at 050800Z. At 051200Z, synoptic data, and wind speeds derived from microwave imagery indicated that the wind speeds in the system had increased to 25 kt (13 m/sec). Based on these data, the first warning on Tropical Depression 23W (TD 23W) was issued, valid at 051200Z. TD 23W moved steadily westward toward the coast of Vietnam and, only twelve hours after the first warning, the final warning was issued at 060000Z when satellite imagery indicated weakening. The remnants of TD 23W moved inland over southeast Asia later that day and dissipated.